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An examination of the accounts of the Society has revealed certain irregularities in the sale of iron and steel and the hiring of the Society's lorry. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is examining the question of taking action against the President and the Secretary for irregularities.''

Loss sustained by the Government Nandanar Institutions due to cyclone.

* 660 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any loss was sustained by the Government Nandanar Institutions on account of the Tanjore cyclone in December 1952; and

(*b*) if so, the nature and the extent of loss?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' (*a*) No loss was sustained by the Government Nandanar Institutions on account of cyclone in 1952.

'' (*b*) Does not arise.''

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—'' Sir, may I know whether there was any expenditure on electricity schemes immediately after the Tanjore Cyclones and if so, what is the amount spent on that? ''

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member is switching on to some other question.''

Strike of estate workers of Wynaad.

* 661 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the recent general strike of 20,000 estate workers of Wynaad, Malabar, was called off as the Hon. the Chief Minister promised to intervene in the dispute; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government to redress their grievances?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) Yes. The Chief Minister advised Shri Kumaran to break his fast and assured workers that the Government will examine their grievances. On this assurance being given, Shri Kumaran broke his fast and workers resumed work.

'' (*b*) A Special Industrial Tribunal has been constituted for plantations. Many of the issues raised by plantation workers have been referred to this Tribunal for adjudication, and the award of the Tribunal is awaited.''

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SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, are Government aware of the fact that since this strike was called off at the instance of the Hon. Chief Minister, the Estate-owners in Wynaad have begun to victimize the workers reduce their services and subject them to various difficulties, and may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have received any representation from the Estate Workers' Union and if so, what steps Government have taken in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the information that I have is this: The issues that were raised are :—

(1) Calculation of wages for pluckers;

(2) Canteen;

(3) Wage for adolescent workers; and

(4) Cut in wages for short work.

The first two issues have been referred for adjudication. As for the other two issues, the Labour Officer has conciliated, after he had discussion both with the management and the workers and the information that I have is that both the parties have agreed to the suggestions made by the Labour Officer."

8-50 a.m. SRI O. KORAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Estate-owners have issued notices to the labourers who took part in the strike, to quit their residence? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, was the promise of the Hon. the Chief Minister conveyed in writing or by him personally or was it merely an excuse that such a representation was made by the relatives of the man who was fasting, so that he could break his fast? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, there is no question of promise whether in writing or oral. After all when the Hon. the Chief Minister said that the grievances would be looked into they would be looked into. Whether there is a fast or not, grievances of labourers are looked into by the Labour Department and the Government."

Construction of a bridge across Kudathalaiyar in Tiruvallur taluk.

* 662 *Q.*—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to construct an overbridge across the river Kudathalaiyar near the Poondi Reservoir in Tiruvallur taluk; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which it stands at present?